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(1) Armed Forces Day Literary and Art Competitions Organizing Committee meets

YANGON, 18 Dec-The 1998 53rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary and Art Competitions Organizing Committee held its meeting today with an address by Chairman of the 53rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Leading Organizing Committee Chief of Bureau of Special Operations Chief of Staff (Army) Lt-Gen Tin Oo.

The meeting would attend to the needs in carrying out the committee's functions, he said, urging them to present requirements concerning organization and functions.

Officiating Colonel General Staff (Air) Lt-Col Nyan Tun Aung briefed the meeting on accomplishments of the committee.

Chairman of the Work Committee for Holding Poetry and Art Competitions Deputy Minister for Culture U Soe Nyunt and Chairman of the Work Committee for Holding Literary and Photo Competitions Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein presented progress of work sectorwise.

Committee-wise implementations were also presented by Higher Education and Basic Education Literary and Art Competitions Work Committee, TV Quiz Work Committee, Twelve National Objectives Exhibition Committee, Military Code of Conduct, Extempore Talks, Prizes and Finance Work Committee, Literary and Art Exhibition, and Accommodation and Reception Work Committee.
Chairman of 53rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Management Committee Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Than and officials also took part in the discussions.

Lt-Gen Tin Oo said the respective committees should harmoniously implement their tasks in accord with the plan, suggesting them to use funds systematically.

The meeting at the Directorate of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute was also attended by Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Maung Nyo, Vice-Quartermaster General Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and officials of the respective committees.

Lt-Gen Tin Oo supervised preparations at DDSMHRI.

(2) Foundation laid to build cement plant

YANGON, 18 Dec Foundation was laid this morning to build a cement plant in Pyadaung region, Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State, which will produce one million tons of cement annually when completed.

Myanmar Cement Co Ltd, a joint-venture of PT Semen Cibinong of Indonesia, and Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd, will build the plant to help reduce cement imports in the future, said Chairman of UMEHL Maj-Gen Than Oo.

Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Myint Aung and Chairman of the Indonesian company Mr Hashim S Djojoha Dikusumo also spoke.

Brig-Gen Myint Aung, Maj-Gen Than Oo, Managing Director of UMEHL Brig-Gen Win Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Mr Dikusumo and officials laid the foundation.

(3) Officials of Ministry of Industry-1, merchants and industrial entrepreneurs meet

YANGON, 18 Dec- A meeting of Officials of the Ministry of Industry-1 and merchants and industrial entrepreneurs took place at the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this afternoon.

It was attended by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Col Than Zin, managing directors and directors-general under the ministry.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the Government is making endeavours for peace and development day and night, adding that industrial sector plays a vital role in nation building tasks for development of the
country, and industrial development will contribute towards uplift of living standards.

The Government is practising the market-oriented economic system, providing assistance to local merchants, he said.

He also invited the merchants and entrepreneurs to cooperate with industries under the ministry and their cordial advice on industries.

Afterwards, the managing directors explained facts about industries under the ministry.

Officials replied to questions raised by those present.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the minister.

(4) **IMD personnel submit USDA membership applications**

YANGON, 18 Dec- Personnel of Immigration and Manpower Department submitted membership applications to Union Solidarity and Development Association in Thakayta Township IMD Office this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were CEC Member of USDA Minister for Immigration and Population U Saw Tun, Deputy Minister U Maung Aung, Director-General of IMD U Nyi Pu and officials.

CEC Member Minister U Saw Tun' spoke on the occasion.

He expressed his appreciation for their applications to join USDA and urged them to strive for peace, tranquillity and development of the State.

IMD provided office equipment to Thakayta Township USDA, and Deputy Director U Myint Ko handed 133 membership applications to Secretary of Township USDA U Aung Win.

(5) **Donations for ceremony to pay homage to old writers**

YANGON, 18 Dec - Well-wishers today presented donations for the ceremony to pay homage to the old writers scheduled to be held at Yangon City Hall with the sponsorship of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association on 22 December in commemoration of Sarsodaw Day.

Today's donations were K 100,000 by U Aung Din Han of Pharkant, K 20,000 by U Yaw Hset Lay of Sangyoung Township, K 5,000 by U Shwe of Bandoola International Co Ltd, K 5,000 by Daw Nu Nu Yi of Shwetaunggyar, Bahan Township, and traditional medicine and religious books by other well-wishers.
(6) 81 kilos heroin amphetamine seized in Mongtong

YANGON, 18 Dec - Eighty-one kilos of heroin and 10,000 amphetamine tablets were seized in a white Pajero, No I Kagyi/9378, which was on its way from Taunggyi to Mongtong on 9 December.

Members of Defence Services Intelligence and Myanmar Police Force and Tatmadawmen stopped and searched the car at a checkpoint in Mongtong and found the drugs.

Action has been taken against the driver Aung Kyaw Oo, son of U Tun Shwe of Taunggyi, and the other four, Ma Molly (a) Ma Mya Kyi, daughter of U Chit Tin (a) Shauk Jan, Aik Pan, son of U Hsan Tama of Hopang, Sai Hla Win (a) Aik Win, son of U Hsan Kyaw of Kunlong village, Hsipaw, and Ah Hsaw, son of U Chong Kwe of Tangyang.

The authorities also seized 344 packets containing 2000 amphetamine tablets each, totalling 688,000 ownerless amphetamine tablets, in the township.

(7) Over 1m amphetamine tablets 7.5 kilo heroin seized in Tachilek bust

YANGON, 18 Dec - Personnel of Tatmadaw intelligence unit, Tachilek Township Myanmar Police Force and members of anti-drug squad seized over 1.14 million tablets of amphetamine, 7.5 kilos of heroin, drug trafficking money, jewellery, arms and motor vehicles in Tachilek on 14 December.

The combined team searched the house of Ar Haw at No 74, Bogyoke Street, Hsanhsai Upper Ward, Tachilek, at about 9 am on 14 December.

They seized 130,800 WY amphetamine tablets, seven handguns, 307 rounds, 50 kilos of potassium nitrate, 75 kilos of white powder used in making amphetamine, 78 kilos of dye powder, 40 Thai-made 0.25-litre bottles of deodorant, four cars and three motor-cycles and nabbed Maung Aye, Yam Hsaung Yon, Lauk Kwe and Li Chaung Mi.

The team later searched Daw Ei Shan Tip's house in the same ward and seized 222,000 anaphetamine tablets, 34 ticals of gold jewellery, 68,040 bahts, 12,700 kyats, 15 pearls, 33 old silver coins, a watch, one cellular phone used in Thailand, two cars and four motor-cycles belonging to Daw Ei Shan Tip, Sai Hsai Liang and Aik Kyauck.

They also seized three amphetamine tablets and one round of carbine from U Aik Kyauck's house, and seized 790,000 amphetamine tablets and 7.5 kilos of heroin and nabbed Kyaw Nyein, Kyaw Naing, Ma Aye Aye Khaing, Ma Moh Moh Aye and Daw Shan Hauck Kyu at the house of Kyaw Nyein at No 86, Sao Sam Tun Street, Ponhtun Ward.
Altogether 1,042,803 amphetamine tablets, 68,040 bahts, 12,700 kyats, 34 ticals of gold jewellery, 15 pearls, six cars and seven motor-cycles were seized.

Twelve people involved in the cases were nabbed and two absconded.

(9) **Border Trade Department holds biannual meeting**

YANGON, 18 Dec Deputy Ministers for Commerce Commodore Myo Tint and Col Kyaw Shwe attended the biannual meeting of the Border Trade Department at BTD Head Office on Merchant Street this morning.

Commodore Myo Tint spoke of the importance of effective coordination in carrying out the tasks and told the personnel to help one another conscientiously prevent weaknesses and solve the problems judiciously. He noted that weaknesses and difficulties need be known in time and that each and every individual of the department has to seriously implement the department's eight objectives with goodwill in the national interest.

He also told the personnel to follow the guidance by the Head of State on the do's and don'ts.

Also present were Acting Director-General of BTD U Aye Kyaw, managing directors and other officials.

(10) **Secretary of MIC receives Japanese delegation**

YANGON, 18 Dec- Minister at the Office of the Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission Brig-Gen Maung Maung received Special Research Fellow of Institute of Fiscal and Monetary Policy, Ministry of Finance of Japan Mr Toshihiko Kinoshita and party at the Commission Office at 9 pm today.

They discussed economic and investment matters.